

THE MINNEAPOLIS BOOKWORM

The following bit of entomological misinformation was recently discovered in "The British Colonial Printer & Stationer" (London, England) for October 7, 1904. It originated in the "Minneapolis Daily Tribune." The account, which is quoted below is remarkable. It describes a "bookworm" of Scottish extraction, with four horns on its head and "a couple on the tail," being the only one of four or five discovered in America and which may have been a hundred years old. And in addition its sex is noted. It was probably a silverfish, which had nothing to do with the "wormholes" in the book.

"Capture of a Bookworm.—We find the following in the 'Minneapolis Daily Tribune':—Did you ever see a real crawling bookworm? C. D. Raymer, 15 Third street, has a little grey bookworm in a bottle. The animal is a real right specimen with four horns on the head and a couple on the tail. It was captured in the middle of the second stanza of "The True-Born Englishman," by Daniel Defoe, the same being printed in a leather-bound volume printed in London in 1701. The bookworm may have been a hundred years making his way through the pages of Defoe's book, but if slow, he was effective. There are ragged holes through "The True-Born Englishman," a spiral trail through "The Character of Dr. Samuel Annesley," a series of trenches in front of "The Spanish Descent," and the "Danger of the Protestant Religions" is shot full of holes. There is a record of only four or five bookworms having been discovered in America. Raymer prides himself on having the most perfect specimen of the lot. This worm is doubtless of Scotch extraction. It was imported with a lot of books brought here from Scotland by the Rev. Thos. Peebles, still a resident of Minneapolis."—H. B. W.